

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	2:23-cr-00449-MHH-NAD
)	
KAMERON JOSIAH BESTER)	

PLEA AGREEMENT

The Government and the defendant, **KAMERON JOSIAH BESTER**, hereby acknowledge the following plea agreement in this case:

PLEA

The defendant agrees to (i) plead guilty to Count One of the Indictment filed in the above-numbered and captioned matter; and waive certain rights to direct appeal and collateral attack as outlined in section **IV** of this agreement. In exchange, the United States Attorney, acting on behalf of the Government and through the undersigned Assistant United States Attorney, agrees to dismiss Count Two at sentencing recommend the disposition specified below, subject to the conditions in section **VII**.

TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

I. MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT

The defendant understands that the maximum statutory punishment that may be imposed for Possession of a Machine Gun, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(o), as charged in Count One, is:

- A. Imprisonment for not more than 10 years;
- B. A fine of not more than \$250,000, or,
- C. Both A and B;
- D. Supervised release of not more than 3 years; and
- E. A special assessment of \$100.

II. FACTUAL BASIS FOR PLEA

The Government is prepared to prove, at a minimum, the following facts at the trial of this case:

On June 17, 2023, Vestavia Hill Police Officer Hix initiated a traffic stop to conduct a registration check on a black Kia Forte with a “backed by Burke” dealership tag. The vehicle stopped in the parking lot of Vestavia Bowl. Kameron Josiah Bester was the driver of the vehicle with a female passenger and a two-year-old child. Officer Hix approached the driver’s side door and smelled an odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. When Officer Hix asked Bester for identification and registration information on the vehicle, Bester told Officer Hix

that he did not have his drivers license on him but he gave him his social security number.

Officer Hix went back to his patrol vehicle to check Bester's information and the vehicle registration and to call for back up. Dispatch advised that the vehicle was not registered in the state of Alabama and that Bester had an active warrant through Calhoun County Sheriff's Office. Once additional officers arrived on the scene, officers approached Bester's vehicle and asked Bester to exit. Officers advised Bester of the active warrant and asked if there was any marijuana in the vehicle or if any marijuana had been recently consumed in the vehicle. Bester stated that he had smoked marijuana earlier, but that there wasn't anything in the vehicle. Officer Hix asked Bester if there was anything illegal in the vehicle and Bester stated, "No, there's nothing." Dispatch then advised officers that the Calhoun County warrant was active, but that they were not able to extradite at that time. Officers asked the passenger to exit the vehicle and asked her if there was any marijuana in the vehicle. She stated that there was not. Officers also removed the two-year-old from the vehicle.

While searching the vehicle because of the marijuana smell, officers found a red and black backpack in the passenger side of the vehicle with a Glock 9mm pistol equipped with a Glock switch. Officer Hix asked who the firearm belonged to and Bester stated that the firearm was his. There was a tactical light mounted on the

lower receiver under the barrel of the firearm. When officers removed the light to see the serial number, it was blank without a serial number. The firearm had a round of ammunition in the chamber and was loaded with 31 rounds in the magazine. Officer Hix advised Bester that the Glock switch made the firearm fully automatic, and Bester stated, "Yes, I know the switch makes it automatic." Officer Hix asked Bester if he had any paperwork on the firearm, and Bester stated, "The guy I bought the gun from told me he printed the slide, and I didn't think nothing of it."

There was also marijuana and digital scales in the backpack. In the trunk of the vehicle, officers found a Delton .223 caliber firearm and a Nike Air Jordan shoe box with two clear gallon size Ziploc bags containing marijuana.

Officer released the passenger and her child from the scene, issued traffic citations to Bester, and transported Bester to the jail for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On June 18, 2023, ATF SA Justin Cardwell conducted an interview of Bester at the Vestavia Hills Jail in reference to his arrest. SA Cardwell advised Bester of his *Miranda* rights which he waived and agreed to speak with SA Cardwell. The following is merely a summation of the interview and not fully transcribed nor verbatim:

SA Cardwell: *I don't see many Polymer 80s...did you build that or did you buy it from somebody?*

BESTER: *I bought it from somebody*

SA Cardwell: Did you buy it as is?

BESTER: Uh-huh... Well except for the beam and light on the bottom, I put that on myself

SA Cardwell: And the little piece on the back... what's that?

BESTER: A switch

SA Cardwell: Yeah, what's that do

BESTER: Turns it automatic

SA Cardwell: Who'd you buy that from? Just off the street or do you know?

BESTER: I got the messages in my phone

SA Cardwell: Would you consent to me looking at your phone while we're in here?

BESTER: (Shook his head in the affirmative)

SA Cardwell: Who was it that you bought it from?

BESTER: I don't know him personally I just know him through Facebook

SA Cardwell: Do you have a Facebook?

BESTER: Uh-huh

SA Cardwell: What's your Facebook?

BESTER: Kam Bester

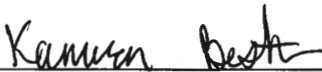
Bester also gave SA Cardwell the passcode to his phone. SA Cardwell found Bester's Facebook page under the moniker "Kam Bester." SA Cardwell observed multiple photos with multiple firearms posted on Bester's page. In Bester's Facebook, SA Cardwell learned that BESTER purchased the modified firearm from someone with a Facebook profile of "Luh Vegas." Bester and Luh Vegas had several messages discussing different firearms.

Bester also told SA Cardwell that the marijuana was supposed be thrown away because it was "bad weed," and that he did not know there was a scale in the bag with the marijuana. Bester stated that he purchased the marijuana for his grandmother, but that when she saw it, she did not want it because it had seeds in it.

Bester then stated that he had the scale because he liked to weigh his marijuana to make sure he is getting the correct amount when he purchases marijuana. Bester told SA Cardwell that he had been laid off from working at Amazon because of some disciplinary actions.

The Glock 9mm pistol equipped with a Glock switch was not registered to Bester in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

The defendant hereby stipulates that the facts stated above are substantially correct and that the Court can use these facts in calculating the defendant's sentence. The defendant further acknowledges that these facts do not constitute all of the evidence of each and every act that the defendant and/or any co-conspirators may have committed.



KAMERON JOSIAH BESTER

III. RECOMMENDED SENTENCE

Subject to the limitations in section VII regarding subsequent conduct and pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B), the Government will recommend the following disposition:

- A. That the defendant be awarded a two (2) level reduction in the defendant's adjusted offense level, based upon the defendant's apparent prompt recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the defendant's criminal conduct. The Government agrees to an additional one-level decrease in recognition of the defendant's prompt notification to the Government of the intention to enter a plea of guilty. The Government may oppose any adjustment for acceptance of responsibility if the defendant: (1) fails to admit each and every item in the factual stipulation; (2) denies involvement in the offense; (3) gives conflicting statements about the defendant's

involvement in the offense; (4) is untruthful with the Court, the Government, or the United States Probation Officer; (5) obstructs or attempts to obstruct justice prior to sentencing; (6) engages in any criminal conduct between the date of this agreement and the date of sentencing; or (7) attempts to withdraw the defendant's plea of guilty for any reason other than those expressly enumerated in the "Waiver of Right to Appeal and Post-Conviction Relief" section of this Plea Agreement;

- B. That the defendant be remanded to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons and incarcerated for a term consistent with the middle of the advisory United States Sentencing Guideline range as calculated by the Court at the time of sentencing;
- C. That following the said term of imprisonment, the defendant be placed on supervised release for a period to be determined by the Court, subject to the Court's standard conditions of supervised;
- D. That the defendant be required to pay a fine in accordance with the sentencing guidelines should the Court determine that the defendant has the ability to pay a fine, said amount due and owing as of the date sentence is pronounced, with any outstanding balance to be paid in full by the expiration of the term of supervised release; and,
- E. That the defendant pay a special assessment of \$100, said amount due and owing as of the date sentence is pronounced.

IV. WAIVERS

A. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS WAIVER

In consideration of the recommended disposition of this case, I, KAMERON JOSIAH BESTER, hereby understand, acknowledge, and agree that if this plea agreement is set aside for any reason, I will not assert any defense based on any applicable statute of limitations or the Speedy Trial Act,

18 U.S.C. § 3161, *et seq.*, that includes the passage of time from and including the date of this plea agreement until and including the date of entry of any order setting this plea agreement aside.

B. RIGHT TO APPEAL AND POST-CONVICTION RELIEF

In consideration of the recommended disposition of this case, I, KAMERON JOSIAH BESTER, hereby waive and give up my right to appeal my conviction and/or sentence in this case, as well as any fines, restitution, and forfeiture orders, the Court might impose. Further, I waive and give up the right to challenge my conviction and/or sentence, any fines, restitution, forfeiture orders imposed or the manner in which my conviction and/or sentence, any fines, restitution, and forfeiture orders were determined in any post-conviction proceeding, including, but not limited to, a motion brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, and any argument that (1) the statute(s) to which I am pleading guilty is or are unconstitutional or (2) the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute(s).

The defendant reserves the right to contest in an appeal or post-conviction proceeding(s) the following:

- 1. Any sentence imposed in excess of the applicable statutory maximum sentence(s);**
- 2. Any sentence imposed in excess of the Guidelines range determined by the Court at the time sentence is imposed; and**

3. Ineffective assistance of counsel.

The defendant acknowledges that before giving up these rights, the defendant discussed the United States Sentencing Guidelines and their application to the defendant's case with the defendant's attorney, who explained them to the defendant's satisfaction. The defendant further acknowledges and understands that the Government retains its right to appeal where authorized by statute.

I, KAMERON JOSIAH BESTER, hereby place my signature on the line directly below to signify that I fully understand the foregoing paragraphs, and that I am knowingly and voluntarily entering into this waiver.



KAMERON JOSIAH BESTER

V. UNITED STATES SENTENCING GUIDELINES

The defendant's counsel has explained to the defendant, that in light of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Booker*, the federal sentencing guidelines are **advisory** in nature. Sentencing is in the Court's discretion and is not required to be within the guideline range. The defendant agrees that, pursuant to this agreement, the Court may use facts it finds by a preponderance of the evidence to reach an advisory guideline range, and the defendant explicitly waives any right to have those facts found by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt.

VI. AGREEMENT NOT BINDING ON COURT

The defendant fully and completely understands and agrees that it is the Court's duty to impose sentence upon the defendant and that any sentence recommended by the Government is **NOT BINDING UPON THE COURT**, and that the Court is not required to accept the Government's recommendation. Further, the defendant understands that if the Court does not accept the Government's recommendation, the defendant does not have the right to withdraw the guilty plea.

VII. VOIDING OF AGREEMENT

The defendant understands that if the defendant (a) violates any federal, state, or local law or any condition of pretrial release after entering into this plea agreement, (b) moves the Court to accept a plea of guilty in accordance with, or pursuant to, the provisions of *North Carolina v. Alford*, 400 U.S. 25 (1970), (c) tenders a plea of *nolo contendere* to the charges, (d) violates any other term of this plea agreement, and/or (e) does or says anything that is inconsistent with the acceptance of responsibility, the plea agreement will become NULL and VOID at the election of the United States, and the United States will not be bound by any of the terms, conditions, or recommendations, express or implied, which are contained herein. Further, such election will not entitle the defendant to withdraw a previously entered plea.

VIII. OTHER DISTRICTS AND JURISDICTIONS

The defendant understands and agrees that this agreement **DOES NOT BIND** any other United States Attorney in any other district, or any other state or local authority.

IX. COLLECTION OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

In order to facilitate the collection of financial obligations to be imposed in connection with this prosecution, the defendant agrees to:

- fully disclose all assets in which the defendant has any interest or over which the defendant exercises control, directly or indirectly, including those held by a spouse, nominee or other third party;
- promptly submit a completed financial statement to the United States Attorney's Office, in a form that it provides and as it directs;
- identify all assets over which the defendant exercises or exercised control, directly or indirectly, within the past five years, or in which the defendant has or had during that time any financial interest;
- take all steps as requested by the Government to obtain from any other parties by any lawful means any records of assets owned at any time by the defendant;
- undergo any polygraph examination the Government may choose to administer concerning such assets and to provide and/or consent to the release of the defendant's tax returns for the previous five years.

The defendant further agrees that the above information, as well as any of the defendant's financial statements and disclosures, will be complete, accurate, and truthful. Finally, the defendant expressly authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to obtain a credit report on the defendant in order to evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation imposed by the Court.

X. AGREEMENT REGARDING RELEVANT CONDUCT AND RESTITUTION

As part of the defendant's plea agreement, the defendant admits to the above facts associated with the charges and relevant conduct for any other acts. The defendant understands and agrees that the relevant conduct contained in the factual basis will be used by the Court to determine the defendant's range of punishment under the advisory sentencing guidelines. The defendant admits that all of the crimes listed in the factual basis are part of the same acts, scheme, and course of conduct. This agreement is not meant, however, to prohibit the United States Probation Office or the Court from considering any other acts and factors, which may constitute or relate to relevant conduct. Additionally, if this agreement contains any provisions providing for the dismissal of any counts, the defendant agrees to pay any appropriate restitution to each of the separate and proximate victims related to those counts should there be any and waives objection to the inclusion of that restitution in any order issued by the Court.

XI. TAX, FORFEITURE AND OTHER CIVIL/ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

Unless otherwise specified herein, the defendant understands and acknowledges that this agreement does not apply to or in any way limit any pending or prospective proceedings related to the defendant's **tax liabilities**, if any, or to any pending or prospective **forfeiture** or other **civil** or **administrative** proceedings.

Non-Abatement of Criminal Forfeiture

The defendant agrees that the forfeiture provisions of this plea agreement are intended to, and will, survive the defendant, notwithstanding the abatement of any underlying criminal conviction after the execution of this agreement. The forfeitability of any particular property pursuant to this agreement shall be determined as if the defendant had survived, and that determination shall be binding upon the defendant's heirs, successors, and assigns until the agreed forfeiture, including any agreed money judgment amount, is collected in full. To the extent that forfeiture pursuant to this agreement requires the defendant to disgorge wrongfully obtained criminal proceeds for the benefit of the defendant's victims, the defendant agrees that the forfeiture is primarily remedial in nature.

XII. IMMIGRATION STATUS

The defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to the defendant's immigration status if the defendant is not a citizen of the

United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty. The defendant's guilty plea and conviction make it practically inevitable and a virtual certainty that the defendant will be removed or deported from the United States if the defendant is not a citizen of the United States. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however; and the defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the district court, can predict to a certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. Understanding all of this, the defendant nevertheless affirms that the defendant wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that plea may entail, even if the consequence is automatic removal from the United States.

XIII. DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read and understand the provisions of this plea agreement consisting of 16 pages. I have discussed the case and my constitutional and other rights with my lawyer. I am satisfied with my lawyer's representation in this case. I understand that by pleading guilty, I will be waiving and giving up my right to continue to plead not guilty, to a trial by jury, to the assistance of counsel at that trial, to confront, cross-examine, or compel the attendance of witnesses, to present evidence on my behalf, to maintain my privilege against self-incrimination, and to the presumption

of innocence. I agree to enter my plea as indicated above on the terms and conditions set forth herein.

NO PROMISES OR REPRESENTATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE IN THE AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE TO ME BY THE PROSECUTOR, OR BY ANYONE ELSE, NOR HAVE ANY THREATS BEEN MADE OR FORCE USED TO INDUCE ME TO PLEAD GUILTY.

I further state that I have not had any drugs, medication, or alcohol within the past 48 hours except as stated here:

I understand that this plea agreement will take effect and will be binding as to the Parties **only** after all necessary signatures have been affixed hereto.

I have personally and voluntarily placed my initials on every page of this plea agreement and have signed the signature line below to indicate that I have read, understand, and approve all of the provisions of this plea agreement, both individually and as a total binding agreement.

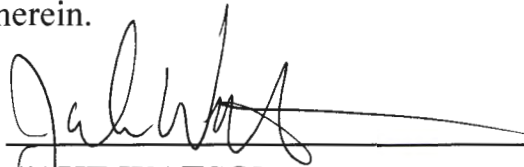
1/18/24
DATE

Kameron Bester
KAMERON JOSIAH BESTER,
Defendant

XIV. COUNSEL'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have discussed this case with my client in detail and have advised my client of all of my client's rights and all possible defenses. My client has conveyed to me that my client understands this plea agreement and consents to all its terms. I believe the plea and disposition set forth herein are appropriate under the facts of this case and are in accord with my best judgment. I concur in the entry of the plea agreement on the terms and conditions set forth herein.

1/18/24
DATE



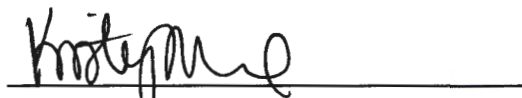
JAKE WATSON
Defendant's Counsel

XV. GOVERNMENT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have reviewed this matter and this plea agreement and concur that the plea and disposition set forth herein are appropriate and are in the interests of justice.

1-19-24
DATE

PRIM F. ESCALONA
United States Attorney



KRISTY PEOPLES
Assistant United States Attorney